

Appl. No. 10/612m197
Atty. Docket No. AA537C
Amdt. dated September 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of 06/16/2005
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent interlabial device having a body contacting surface, a garment facing surface opposing the body contacting surface, an interior region, and a periphery region which surrounds the interior region, the body contacting surface being liquid permeable, the absorbent interlabial device comprising:

an absorbent member disposed between the garment facing surface and the body contacting surface, the absorbent member having a body facing surface and a garment facing surface opposing the body facing surface;

wherein the absorbent interlabial device has a convex portion on the body contacting surface in the interior region, and a concave portion on the garment facing surface in the interior region, and the convex portion and the concave portion are formed in a face-to-face relationship; and

wherein the absorbent interlabial device has a longitudinal length of from about 60 mm to about 150 mm and a transverse width of from about 20 mm to about 80 mm and the convex portion has a length of from about 10 mm to about 80 mm, and the ratio of the longitudinal length of the absorbent interlabial device to the length of the convex portion is from about 1:1.1 to about 1:10.

2. (Previously presented) The absorbent interlabial device of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent member is an absorbent core having a body facing surface and a garment facing surface opposing the body facing surface, and the interlabial device further comprises a liquid permeable topsheet disposed on the body facing surface of the absorbent core, wherein the topsheet forms the body contacting surface.

3. (Previously presented) The absorbent interlabial device of Claim 2, further comprising a liquid impermeable backsheet disposed on the garment facing surface of the absorbent core, wherein the backsheet forms the garment facing surface.

4. (Original) The absorbent interlabial device of Claim 3, wherein the topsheet, the absorbent core and the backsheet are layered to form a laminate structure.

5. (Previously presented) The absorbent interlabial device of Claim 1, wherein the convex portion and the concave portion form a shape selected from the group consisting of a dome shape, a cone shape, or a pillar shape.

6-9. (Cancelled)

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10. (Previously presented) The absorbent interlabial device of Claim 9 8, wherein the convex portion has a longitudinal length of from about 10 mm to about 80 mm.

11. (Previously presented) The absorbent interlabial device of Claim 8, wherein the convex portion has the a height of from about 5 mm to about 50 mm.

12. (Previously presented) The absorbent interlabial device of Claim 1, wherein the periphery region of the absorbent interlabial device has a circumference edge which forms a shape selected from the group consisting of a circle, an ellipse, a triangle, a rectangle, or a gourd-shape.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for making an absorbent interlabial device having a body contacting surface, a garment facing surface opposing the body contacting surface, an interior region, a periphery region which surrounds the interior region, a convex portion on the body contacting surface in the interior region, a concave portion on the garment facing surface in the interior region, and the convex portion and the concave portion are formed in a face-to-face relationship, the method comprising the steps of:

supplying two absorbent members each having first and second surfaces opposing each other, the first surfaces of the two absorbent members being in a face-to-face relationship; and

seaming a part of the two absorbent members along a predetermined seam line such that the two absorbent members form the convex portion and the concave portion;

wherein one of the first and second surfaces of the two absorbent members is liquid permeable; and

wherein the first surfaces of the two absorbent members is are liquid permeable, and the method further comprises the step of turning over the two absorbent members so that the first surfaces of the two absorbent members are exposed.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the two absorbent members are formed from a unitary absorbent member having first and second surfaces opposing each other and a predetermined folding line, and the step of supplying two absorbent members comprises the steps of supplying the

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unitary absorbent member, and folding the unitary absorbent member along the predetermined folding line.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the absorbent member includes a liquid permeable topsheet material and an absorbent core material which are layered.